THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (d) A detailed project report for setting up of 1500 MW combined cycle power project at Ennore, Tamil Nadu submitted by M/s HMG (Power) Ennore Ltd. was received in Central Electricity Authority (CEA) in June 1997, using LNG as long term fuel. This scheme was returned by CEA on 28-10-1997 as the various inputs/ Clearances essentially required for processing of the proposal for techno-economic clearance of CEA were not tied up. M/s Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation have proposed to set up a power plant based on LNG, at Ennore and have invited competitive offers for developing this project.

Mega power projects in collaboration with foreign countries

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether major American and European Power giants have expressed their willingness to set up Mega Power Projects in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to permit them to set up mega power projects in India; and

(d) to what extent the shortage of power is likely to be solved?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (c) A number of companies including some from Europe and United States have evinced interest in setting up mega power projects in the country. Government has recently recast the policy on development of mega power projects. According to the revised policy, certain project sites, both in the Public as well as Private sector have been identified for setting up such mega projects which would cater to the power needs of more than one state. The Standing Independent Group constituted by the Government would initially be the apex body to oversee the implementation of the mega private power projects. The principles of competitive bidding would be adhered to as far as possible, while obtaining tariff offers. The bidding process for award of the identified mega projects to private sector companies has not so far commenced.

(d) It is visualised that through the revised mega power policy, a capacity of 15,000 to 20,000 MW would be added.

टी०एच०डी०सी० द्वारा जलगुणवत्ता निगरानी केन्द्र की स्थापना

1804. **श्री मनोहर कान्त ध्यानी:** क्या विद्युत मंत्री 3 जून 1998 को राज्य सभा में अतारांकित प्रश्न 836 के दिए गए उत्तर को देखेंगे और यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या टी०एच०डी०सी० द्वारा जलगुणवत्ता निगरानी केन्द्र की स्थापना की गई है;

(ख) क्या इस प्रयोग के लिये मनेरी जलाशय को चुना गया है क्योंकि यहां पर्वतीय भू-भाग में गंगा पर एक जलाशय है जहां टिहरी जलाशय के निर्माण से पहले यह प्रयोग संभव है, यदि हां, तो क्या कार्य प्रारम्भ हो गया है, यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो इस महत्वपूर्ण विवादास्पद मुद्दे की ऐसी उपेक्षा के क्या कारण है?

विद्युत मंत्री (श्री पी०आर० कुमारामंगलम): (क) से (ग) डीएचडीसी ने केन्द्रीय जल आयोग के परामर्श के साथ उपयुक्त स्थलों पर जल गुणवत्ता के अनुवीक्षण हेतु कार्यवाही शुरू कर दी है। जल गुणवत्ता

अनुवीक्षण केन्द्रों की स्थापना टिहरी बांध जलाशय में जल के अवरुद्ध होने से पूर्व चरणबद्ध तरीके से की जाएगी।

Cess on power generation

1805. MISS FRIDA TOPNO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated a new Hydel Power Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to levy cess on power generation and not on consumption for raising National Power Development Fund;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when the Hydro Cess Bill will be introduced in Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government has announced a Policy on Hydro Power development in August, 1998 in order to accelerate the pace of Hydro power development. The policy envisages the following measures for this purpose:—

(i) Providing adequate funds in the Central/State Government budget and organising supplementary funding through Power Finance Corporation.

(ii) Entrusting basin wise development to Central Hydel Public Sector Corporations.

(iii) Funding support for Survey and Investigations.

(iv) Establishing of a Power Development Fund.

(v) Providing a differential pricing for peaking power to facilitate greater investment in hydel projects which have the capacity to supply peaking power in a cost effective manner.

(vi) Providing an institutional mechanism for dealing with geological risks.

(vii) Utilising the joint venture frame work for promoting hydel projects.

(viii) Simplification of procedures relating to transfer of clearances from State Government to Central Public Sector Undertakings and State Government to private sector.

(ix) Enhancing the ceiling limits for techno-econimic clearance by CEA in respect of projects promoted on the MOU route.

(x) Transfer of work relating to the development of small hydel projects upto 25 MW capacity from Ministry of Power to Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources and providing a suitable incentive package.

(c) and (d) A proposal for enactment of a legislation enabling establishment of Electricity Development Fund by levy of cess on the electricity generation is under examination in consultation with the Ministry of Law. The proceeds realised from the imposition of the cess will be deposited in the Consolidated Fund of India and, thereafter, shared between the Central and State Governments.

The amount available in the State Electricity Development Fund will be utilised for promoting hydro power development including small hydel power projects and for improvements in the transmission/distribution network including the sub-transmission/distribution system.

The amount available in the Central Electricity Development Fund will be utilised for the following purposes:

(i) Financing the expenditure on survey and investigation and preparation of DPRs in respect of Hydro Projects which will provide benefit to more than one State.

(ii) Investment in pre-construction activities including expenditure on land acquisition. These activities will include construction of access roads and bridges.

(iii) Development of small and mini hydro projects.

(iv) Financing the expenditure on renovation and modernisation of power plants.